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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/884,661	06/19/2001	Harry Nick Carter	AREQU.0101	4500
7590	08/01/2005		EXAMINER	
David W. Carstens Carstens, Yee & Cahoon, L.L.P. P.O. Box 802334 Dallas, TX 75380			LIM, KRISNA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2153	

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/884,661	CARTER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Krisna Lim	2153	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-23 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-15, drawn to a system for synchronizing a multiplicity of devices comprising: a) a hardwired or wireless Local Area Network; b) each of the plurality of zone specific storage, interface devices, a central storage and interface device are updated in relation with other zone specific storage, interface devices, a central storage and interface device; and wherein the central storage and interface device is capable of converting analog information into digital form, classified in class 709, subclass 248.
- II. Claims 16-23, drawn to a method for synchronizing a plurality of devices comprising the steps of: a) determining whether a current synchronization point exists; b) if a previous synchronization point exists, receiving information from a server; c) if a previous synchronization point does not exist, sending information to at least one client by a host ...; d) determining what information is needed by the at least one client; e) establishing the resultant state as a synchronization point, classified in class 707, subclass 201.

Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the invention I does not require the steps of: a) determining whether a current synchronization point exists; b) if a previous synchronization point exists, receiving information from a server; c) if a previous synchronization point does not exist, sending information to at least one client by a host ...; d) determining what information is needed by the at least one client; e) establishing the resultant state as a synchronization point. And the subcombination has separate utility such as a method for synchronizing a plurality of devices does not require: a) a hardwired or wireless Local Area Network; b) each of the plurality of zone specific storage, interface devices, a central storage and interface device are updated in relation with other zone specific storage, interface devices, a central storage and interface device; and wherein the central storage and interface device is capable of converting analog information into digital form.

For example, the searches for the four inventions would not be co-extensive because these groups would require different searches on PTO's classification class and subclass as following:

- 1) The Group I search (claims 1-15) would require use of search class 709, subclass 248 (which would not be required for the group II).

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2) The Group II search (claims 16-23) would require use of search class 707, subclass 201 (which would not required for the group I)/

Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

Applicant is reminded that the required for response to this requirement is 30 days, not one month.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krisna Lim whose telephone number is 571-272-3956. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess, can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KI

July 25, 2005



KRISNA LIM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature of Krisna Lim is written over a printed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, appearing to read "KL". Below the signature, the name "KRISNA LIM" is printed in capital letters, followed by "PRIMARY EXAMINER" in a slightly smaller font.